



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/716,874	11/20/2003	Kazuhito Gassho	Q78472	5635
72875	7590	02/26/2008		
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20037			EXAMINER PARK, CHAN S	
			ART UNIT 2625	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 02/26/2008	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

USPTO@sughrue.com  
kghyndman@sughrue.com  
USPatDocketing@sughrue.com

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/716,874	GASSHO ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	CHAN S. PARK	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 November 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-7 and 9-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-7 and 9-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

DOUGLAS Q. TRAN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. Applicant's amendment was received on 11/2/07, and has been entered and made of record. Currently, **claims 1, 3-7 and 9-11** are pending.

### ***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to **claims 1, 3-7 and 9-11** have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Claim Objections***

3. Claims are objected to because of the following informalities:  
Claim 3, line 3, "a receiver" should be -- the receiver --;  
Claim 7, line 1-2, "a receiver" should be -- the receiver --; and  
Claim 7, line 5, "is 20 over" should be -- is ~~20~~-over --.  
Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 3 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

**With respect to claim 3**, the claim recites "when receiving the notification" in the last line. It is unclear if this notification is referring to "the completion notification" recited in claim 1 or the "notification regarding the status of the print job" recited in line 3 of claim 3. Or are they simply the same? Explanation/clarification from the Specification is respectfully requested.

**With respect to claim 10**, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 3, are applicable.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taniguchi et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,348,972 (hereinafter Taniguchi).

**With respect to claim 1**, Taniguchi discloses a job management apparatus (host computers C1~C3 in fig. 1) connected with a network separately from a printing device (printers P1~P2) that manages status of a print job to be processed in the printing device connected with the network (fig. 6), comprising:

a retention module that stores the print job (auxiliary memories D1~D3);

a transmitter that transmits the stored print job to the printing device (transmitting the print job to the print in col. 7, lines 34-39);

a delete inhibition module that inhibits the retention module from deleting the print job which has been transmitted out (note that the host computer does not delete the print job until the printing is finished in col. 7, lines 48-51); and

a receiver that receives completion notification of the print job from the printing device (col. 7, lines 40-43),

wherein the delete inhibition module allows the retention module to delete the print job corresponding to the completion notification when receiving the completion notification (deleting the finished print job in col. 7, lines 48-51).

Taniguchi, however, does not explicitly disclose that the print job is received from a client computer via the network.

The examiner take an Official Notice that transmitting/receiving print job (e.g., word document, photographic images) as an attachment in an email from one PC to another PC is well known in the network communication art. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art to receive the print job from another PC via the email network since the Examiner takes an Official Notice that transmitting/receiving print job as an attachment in an email from one PC to another PC is well known in the network communication art. Furthermore, the motivation for doing so would have been to use other remote PCs to generate the print job.

**With respect to claim 3**, Taniguchi discloses a job management apparatus, further comprising:

the receiver that receives notification regarding the status of the print job in the printing device (col. 7, lines 40-43),

wherein the retention module changes the status of the print job corresponding to the notification to the notified status when receiving the notification (col. 7, lines 40-51).

**With respect to claims 9 and 11**, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 1, are applicable.

**With respect to claim 10**, arguments analogous to those presented for claim 3, are applicable.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taniguchi as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kimura U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2002/0042797.

**With respect to claim 4**, Taniguchi discloses a job management apparatus, but it does not disclose an error detection module that detects error involved with printing in the printing device, wherein the retention module changes the status of the print job corresponding to the detected error to halt that is out of print queue when the error is detected.

Kimura, the same field of endeavor of the network printing art, discloses a job management apparatus comprising:

an error detection module that detects error involved with printing in the printing device (paragraphs 59 & 73),

wherein the retention module changes the status of the print job corresponding to the detected error to halt that is out of print queue when the error is detected (paragraph 73).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the notification system of Taniguchi to include the error detection module of Kimura.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to correctly notify the user of the current status of the printer as well as the print jobs.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Taniguchi with Kimura to obtain the invention as specified in claim 4.

**With respect to claim 5**, Kimura discloses the job management apparatus, wherein the error detection module detects the error based on error notification from the printing device (paragraph 59).

6. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Taniguchi and Kimura as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of Yagita U.S. Patent No. 6,654,137.

**With respect to claim 6**, the combination discloses the job management apparatus in accordance with claim 4, but it does not explicitly disclose that the error detection module detects the error by inquiring to the printing device regarding at least either one of the status of the printing device or the status of the print job.

Yagita, the same field of endeavor of notifying the status of print job to the host, discloses the host computer inquiring the printing device for the status of the print job (col. 1, lines 30-33).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to implement the inquiring method of Yagita into the printing system of Taniguchi and Kimura.



The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to get the status of the print job without the printing device initiating the transmission of the status.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine three references to obtain the invention as specified in claim 6.

7. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Taniguchi and Kimura as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of Asthana et al. U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2004/0185877 (hereinafter Asthana).

With respect to claim 7, the combination discloses the job management apparatus in accordance with claim 4, comprising

a receiver that receives notification regarding performing status of the print job from the printing device (paragraphs 58-59).

Kimura, however, does not explicitly disclose that the error detection module determines that the error has occurred in the printing device when period up to the receipt of the notification is over predetermined period of time.

Asthana, the same field of endeavor of the print job completion notification system, discloses a printing system for determining that the error has occurred in the printing device when period up to the receipt of the notification is over predetermined period of time (paragraph 199).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the error detection method of Asthana into the printing system of Taniguchi and Kimura.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to automatically determine the error without waiting for a long period of time.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine three references to obtain the invention as specified in claim 7.

### ***Conclusion***

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **CHAN S. PARK** whose telephone number is (571) 272-7409. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-4:30pm.

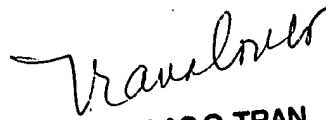
Application/Control Number:  
10/716,874  
Art Unit: 2625

Page 10

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

csp  
February 8, 2008

  
DOUGLAS Q. TRAN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Chan S. Park  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2625

